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ABSTRACT

This forty-five item annotated bibliography dealing with available materials about instrument making is comprised of 39 books, five catalogs, and one newsletter. These resources are divided into the following categories: instrument making books: children; instrument making books: written on an adult level, but include projects suitable for the classroom or home; musicology and organology; and music instruction using student-made instruments: theory and practice. Names and addresses are given of six resources of mail order suppliers and a newsletter publisher. (BZ)

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR AVAILABLE MATERIAL INSTRUMENT MAKING (WITH RELATED RESOURCES)

BY

TONY PIZZO

1985

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A BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR AVAILABLE MATERIAL INSTRUMENT MAKING (WITH RELATED RESOURCES)

INSTRUMENT MAKING BOOKS: CHILDREN

MAKE MINE MUSIC, written and illustrated by Tom Walther (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1981)

The best of the brown-ink-and-line drawing books on instrument making. It's written for kids, but doesn't talk down to them and covers a lot of ground in a lively, informal style. Clearly-drawn instructions for making a wide range of available material instruments are scattered throughout the text, which covers acoustics, families of instruments and world music.

SIMPLE FOLK INSTRUMENTS TO MAKE AND PLAY, by Ilene Hunter and Marilyn Judson (NY: Simon and Schuster, 1977)

You could keep a kid off the streets clear up until puberty by making all the instruments in this book, which includes plans for most of the simpler available material instruments which you may find in other books. The difference is that all of these plans will work. Heavy on the percussion, but also includes string and wind instruments. Of particular merit are the "Quick and Simple" designs at the end of each chapter which are just that.

MAKE YOUR OWN DULCIMER USING COMMON MATERIALS, by David Cross (Backyard Music, PO Box 9047, New Haven, CT 06532, 1981)

A neat little booklet which tells you how to make a creditable available material dulcimer featuring a cardboard soundbox. David also publishes a companion booklet for kids called "Meet the Friendly Dulcimer", and has kits available for sale.

AMERICAN FOLK TOYS: HOW TO MAKE THEM, by Dick Schnacke (NY: Penguin Books, 1973)

Technically this is not an instrument making book, but both these activities are closely related in that they involve invention and movement. And like the Hunter/ Judson book, all your favorites are included here, and they work!

While I'd consider the books above your best bets, you may want to take a look (or a chance) with the following,listed in order of preference.

RESONANT RUBBISH, by John Brune [London: English Folk Dance and Song Society, 1974. Available from Legacy Books (see below)]

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENT RECIPE BOOK, Education Development Center (NY; McGraw Hill, 1968)
FLUTES, WHISTLES AND REEDS; SINGING STRINGS; HORNS by Larry Kettelkamp (William Morrow, 1962, 1958, 1964)
HOMEMADE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, by Tom Keynton (NY: Drake Publishing CO., 1975)
MAKING MUSICAL THINGS by Ann Wiseman (NY: Scribners, 1979)

INSTRUMENT MAKING BOOKS: Written on an adult level, but include projects suitable for the classroom or home.

FLUTECRAFT, by Mark Shepard (Distributed by Monty H. Levenson, PO Box 294, Willits, CA 95490)

A clearly written and manageable introduction to the acoustics of the flute, including instructions for making a bamboo flute.

MAKING FOLK INSTRUMENTS IN WOOD, by Dennis Waring (NY: Sterling Publishing Co.,1983)

A very well done overview of string, wind, and percussion instruments made from available materials.This book includes both the simpler instruments of the type found in Hunter/Judson as well as a section including more sophisticated string instruments, tool technique, resources and other related information. A strong point of Waring's book is the inclusion of accurate and uncomplicated plans for a tear-drop fiddle, hammer dulcimer, fretless banjo, mountain dulcimer, and Celtic harp; all of which are among the best I've seen for these instruments at this skill level, with the added advantage that they're all in one place.

VIBRATIONS: MAKING UNORTHODOX MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, by David Sawyer (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1977)

An influential book. A good number of the instruments described were later included in other books, but the real value of VIBRATIONS lies in its emphasis on the process of discovering and developing instrument designs and the use of maker-played instruments in ensemble. There are some intriguing uses of fan resonators described that should keep you up for a few nights, some pithy thoughts on scoring for new instruments, and rare plans for ceramic flutes and ceramic chimes.

SOUND DESIGNS, by Reinhold Banek and Jon Scoville, (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press, 1980)

Most readers of Experimental Musical Instruments will probably have already heard of or more likely will already own this book, and justifiably so. The designs require more sophisticated tools and techniques than most other books of this type, but the authors give good clear instructions for how to handle it if you've a mind to take it all on. Strong on pitched percussion, particularly using plastics and

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metals. About fifty instruments are described, many of them original applications. This book is an excellent goad to the imagination, and provides plenty of resource lists to help point the way.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MADE TO BE PLAYED, by Ronald Roberts (Leicester: The Dryad Press, 1968)

The granddaddy of them all. Roberts' book was the first book to go beyond the rubber-bands-on-the-shoebox approach to available material instrument making and is still a good place to start. Includes instructions for the now common pitched percussion instruments, but has particularly good plans for a resonated glockenspiel and is still the best place to find plans for zithers, the kantele (Nordic psaltery) and the bowed psaltery. Another strong point of this book is the set of full-size templates included in early editions.

STEEL DRUMS: HOW TO MAKE THEM AND PLAY THEM, by Peter Seeger (NY: Oak Publications, 1964)

How to make, tune and play the steel drums -- white noise with color. If you want to make steel drums, this is the book to locate. Fortunately it's very informative, because it's still the only book available on the subject.

THE MONTESSORI HARP: FULL SIZE PLANS, by John Maluda (available from John Maluda, 1901 Ashmoor Lane, Anchorage KY, 40223)

Mr. Maluda is drafting plans for a series of Montessori-approved childrens' instruments, and these are the first plans he has published. A good project for a teacher or other adult handy with tools.

MAKING MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, by Irving Sloane (NY: E P Dutton, 1978)

Sloane is widely respected for producing well-researched plans for the general reader who wants to spend the time required to produce an attractive and respectable instrument. Here he presents plans for banjo, snare drum, tambourine, Appalachian dulcimer, Hardanger fiddle, and, (as if that weren't enough) for Dolmetsch recorder. Many of these plans are for instruments not covered elsewhere, and he includes excellent information on the mounting of skin heads on banjos and drums.

Also recommended, also by Mr. Sloane: CLASSIC GUITAR CONSTRUCTION, STEEL-STRING GUITAR CONSTRUCTION, GUITAR REPAIR.

Some other titles:

DRUMS,TOMTOMS AND RATTLES, by Bernard Mason (NY: Dover Publications, 1974) Requires access to leather and skin for drumheads.Goes into some historical depth for a project-oriented book.

COUNTRY INSTRUMENTS: MAKIN' YOUR OWN, BY Andy deFaule (CA: Oliver Press, 1976) Good designs for dulcimer, guitar, mandolin and fiddle: helpful ancillary information on inlay, finishes, and woodworking technique.Somewhat similar to Waring's book, but with fewer plans.
MAKING AND PLAYING BAMBOO PIPES, by Margaret Galloway (Leicester: The Dryad Press, Fifth Edition, 1971) Instructions for making a bamboo recorder.
MAKING A SIMPLE VIOLIN AND VIOLA, by Ronald Roberts (VT: David and Charles, 1975) Robert's usually well-thought-out plans for his own version of Felix Savart's trapezoidal violin.
SOUND SCULPTURE, by John Grayson (Vancouver: Aesthetic Research Center of Canada, 1975) A good overview of this fascinating but under-documented field. Another good book to mine for inspiration.Also recommended but likewise hard-to-find: ENVIRONMENTS OF MUSICAL SCULPTURE YOU CAN BUILD, also by John Grayson of ARC.

MUSICOLOGY AND ORGANOLOGY

SOUNDS OF MUSIC, by Charles Taylor (NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1976)

The best introduction to musical acoustics I've come across, written by a loveable old professor of physics at The University of Cardiff. Profusely illustrated and written for the reader with a non-technical background.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE WORLD, by The Diagram Group (NY: Facts on File,Inc., 1976)

An illustrated encyclopedia of the musical instruments of the world.There are more than four thousand highly detailed line drawings in this book, which includes information on playing positions, interrelationships of instruments and classification systems, as well as the acoustic principals upon which these classifications are based. This is an essential book for anyone who makes or fantasizes about musical instruments.

MUSIC OF THE WHOLE EARTH, by David Reck (NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977)

Another classic. Ethnomusicology for the general reader, taken from a world music rather than a European perspective. This book, along with the Diagram Group's book cited above, is an essential choice for the library of any school or home where instrument making is taking place. Many excellent photos.

A SURVEY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, by Sibyl Marcuse (NY: Harper and Row, 1975) and
THE HISTORY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, by Curt Sachs (NY: W W Norton, 1940)

Good sourcebooks for more detailed historical information on musical instruments. Marcuse's survey is based on the detailing of the interrelationships between instruments of the same family, while Sachs covers the instruments found in particular geographical areas.

DRUMS IN THE AMERICAS, by Joseph Howard (NY: Oak Publications, 1967)
WORLD OF PERCUSSION, by Emil Richards (CA: Gwyn Publishing Co.,1972)
PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR HISTORY, by James Blades (NY: Praeger, 1970)
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF AFRICA, by Babatunde Olatunji and Betty Dietz (NY: The John Day Co., 1965)

These four books are excellent resouces for anyone interested in the extraordinary range of world percussion. Each book covers the subject from a different angle: Howard's historical survey concentrates on North, Central and South American drums and drumming, the influence of African music on these American musics, and is rich in photographs of the referrent instruments.

Emil Richards' book is primarily a photographic record of his extensive collection of folk, orchestral and experimental percussion from all over the world, and gives the range of many of the instruments cited.

Blades's enormous work is a more scholarly survey of the backgrounds and development of world percussion, paying particular emphasis to European instruments.

The Olatunji/Dietz book combines an introduction to the importance of music in African cultures with an excellent photographic record of many African percussives. A soundsheet is included. This book is an excellent school resource.

ANTIQUE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR PLAYERS: THE "GABINETTO ARMONICO", by Filippo Bonanni (NY: Dover Publications, 1964)

A collection of 152 eighteenth century engravings of European and "exotic" instruments. Some of the instruments pictured are fanciful at best (like the eggplant sitar), but it's a fascinating pictorial resource.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF INDIA, by S.Krishnaswami (Boston:Crescendo Publishing Co., 1971)

A short history of Indian music precedes the bulk of the text, which consists of descriptions and photographs of most of the string, percussion and wind instruments of ancient and modern India. Basically the only popular treatment of this subject available at present.

DULCIMER PEOPLE, by Jean Ritchie (NY: Oak Publications, 1975)

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The best general introduction to this popular folk instrument. Includes history and makers of the instrument, playing techniques of famous players, construction and puchasing information and a bibliography.

MUSIC INSTRUCTION USING STUDENT-MADE INSTRUMENTS: Theory and Practice

CREATIVE MUSIC FOR CHILDREN, by Satis Coleman (NY: G P Putnam's Sons, 1922)

Worth tracking down. The account of a pioneer in available material instrument making with children. Coleman's approach was based on allowing children to follow their own developmental impulses in instrument making and playing and observing how their own discoveries paralleled the history of man's musical development.

EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC IN SCHOOLS, by Brian Dennis (London: Oxford University Press, 1970)

A "new music" approach to teaching composition in the schools. A companion book to VIBRATIONS (above). Covers subjects from awareness of sound and simple scores and improvisations all the way up to more elaborate scores and electronic music in the classroom.

NEW SOUNDS IN CLASS, by George Self (London: Universal Editions, 1967)

Somewhat similar to Dennis's book (above), but includes more scores.

AFRO ENSEMBLE: A BEGINNING BOOK, by Lynne Jessup (Fort Worth: Harris Music Publications, 1975)

An excellent introduction to traditional African percussion patterns clearly and simply notated for drums, clave, bells, shaker etc. Useful resource materials are also listed.Available from Rhythm Band Inc. (see below)

DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS FOR A ONE YEAR COURSE IN AFRICAN MUSIC FOR THE GENERAL UNDEGRADUATE STUDENT, by Vada E. Butcher and others (Washington, DC: Dept. of HEW, 1970)

Of particular value as a bibliographic and educational resource for those interested in studying African and Afro-American music in depth.Available from Legacy Books. (see below)

LITERATURE AND MUSIC AS RESOURCES FOR SOCIAL STUDIES, by Ruth Tooze and Beatrice Krone (NJ: Prentice Hall, 1955)

How to use specific stories and songs to enrich elementary social studies. Resources are arranged chronologically, geographically and thematically.

THE KODALY METHOD, by Lois Choksy (NJ:Prentice Hall, 1974) and THE KODALY CONTEXT, by Lois Choksy (NJ: Prentice Hall, 1981)

(Suggested by Robin Goodfellow) The theoretics and practical method of using Kodaly's approach to the teaching of music in the classroom.

MUSIC-SOCIETY-EDUCATION, by Christopher Small (NY: Schirmer, 1977)

An investigation of how a society's attitude towards music is reflected in the manner in which it presents the study of music to children. Critical of the European tradition, the author presents a model for personal involvement with the study and enjoyment of music inspired by the traditional approaches of the third world. A thought-provoking book which can provide a theoretical basis for alternative music education.

AFRICAN RHYTHM AND AFRICAN SENSIBILITY, by John Miller Chernoff (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979)

Written by a scholar/drummer resulting from his study of traditional drumming in Ghana, this book is rich in insights into the social significance and pedagogy of music in an African culture. A cassette tape of musical examples is available.

THE TUNING OF THE WORLD, by R. Murray Schafer (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1980)

This book is a history of our perception of sound, of the changing interrelationship between natural sounds and those produced by man, and of the effects of this evolution on us. Read carefully, it can serve as a series of exercises designed to sharpen our awareness of what Schafer calls the "soundscape."

OTHER RESOURCES

LEGACY BOOKS, Box 494, Hatboro PA, 19040-0494

A mail order supplier specializing in books on folklore and cultural studies. They are both extremely knowledgeable and helpful, and are willing to track down almost any book in these subject areas if it is not already stocked. A catalogue is not available, so you have to give them either a specific title or the subject in which you are interested. They should stock many of the instrument making books listed above. COME ALL YE, a quarterly newsletter reviewing new releases in these fields is also available for $5.00 / year, and back issues are available.

FOLKSONG IN THE CLASSROOM, Laurence I. Seidman, 140 Hill Park Ave., Great Neck NY, 11021 $5.00 / year

A quarterly newsletter for those interested in integrating an awareness of folk culture and song into the

school curriculum. Each issue revolves around a theme (e.g.the railroad, the Civil War, whaling) and offers what amounts to a lesson plan for that theme -- an introduction, specific songs with music and commentary, bibliography, discography and activities. An excellent resource. Back issues are available.

ELDERLY INSTRUMENTS, 1100 N. Washington, PO Box 14210, Lansing MI, 48901

The Sears Roebuck of folk music. A reliable mail order source for instruments, records and books (a large catalogue is available for each category.)

RHYTHM BAND INC., PO Box 126, Fort Worth TX, 76101

A reliable supplier of instruments, music and resource materials for elementary and special education. A catalogue is available.

PAiA ELECTRONICS, INC., 1020 W. Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City OK, 73116

A mail order supplier of music and recording electronics kits. Many of the kits are aimed at a non-technical market. A catalogue is available.

NONESUCH RECORDS, 665 Fifth Ave., NY NY, 10022

The Nonesuch Explorer series is the best, most complete and most easily available series of world music field recordings. A catalogue is available and is a good first place to look for sound resources.

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